

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 03438 221748Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

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R 221400Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5431

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN REACTIONS TO CONSUMER/PRODUCER PREPCON

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 03438 221748Z

1. SUMMARY: PRESS COMMENT IN AUSTRIAN ON COLLAPSE

OF PARIS CONFERENCE HAS BEEN LIGHT.
REACTION OF KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IS THAT OUTCOME WAS
NOT SURPRISING AND THAT CONFERENCE HAD BEEN PREMATURE,
FOR WHICH FRENCH ARE HELD TO BLAME. GOA NOW ASSESSING
CONFERENCE RESULTS AND IS AWAITING FURTHER REACTIONS
FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE US.
(END OF SUMMARY)

2. DURING AMBASSADOR'S APRIL 21 CALL ON FINANCE
MINISTER ANDROSCH (WHO IS LIKELY CANDIDATE TO ATTEND
IEA MINISTERIAL), LATTER OBSERVED THAT HE HAD NOT
REALLY EXPECTED PREPCON TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT DURING
FIRST ROUND. IN HIS OPINION, ANDROSCH SAID, CONSUMER
SOLIDARITY WAS NOT YET FIRM ENOUGH, WHEREAS OPEC'S
POSITION WAS PRETTY STRONG AND UNIFIED. HE FELT THAT
CONSUMERS SHOULD NOT BE DISCOURAGED BY FAILURE OF FIRST
PREPCON ROUND, THAT PATIENCE WOULD BE REQUIRED SINCE
IT MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED
CONCERNING CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONFERENCE, BUT THAT IT
WAS IMPORTANT TO KEEP DIALOGUE GOING. A FEW DAYS EARLIER
ANDROSCH MADE SAME POINTS TO ECONCUNS AT AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FUNCTION, DURING WHICH HE ALSO
REITERATED TO AUDIENCE THAT AUSTRIAN MADE CORRECT DECISION
IN JOINING IEA.

3. ECONCOUNS ALSO DISCUSSED RESULTS OF CONFERENCE WITH
AMBASSADOR SIEFFERTITZ IN CHARGE OF IEA MATTERS IN
FOREIGN MINISTRY, YESTERDAY, SEYFFERTITZ SAID GOA HAS
NOT FORMULATED ANY REACTION AS YET AND IS NOW IN PROCESS
OF REVIEWING AND ASSESSING CONFERENCE AND QUESTION
OF HOW TO PROCEED IN FUTURE. GOA ALSO WAITING FOR
REACTIONS AND VIEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY
US.

4. SEYFFERTITZ WAS RELAXED ABOUT FAILURE OF CONFERENCE
AND DID NOT APPEAR SURPRISED AT OUTCOME. HE HAD
PERSONALLY FELT FROM BEGINNING THAT PREPCON WAS
PREMATURE AND THOUGH FRENCH HAD BEEN TOO HASTY IN
PRESSING FOR CONFERENCE AT THIS TIME. HE ALSO WONDERED
WHAT FRENCH HAD EXPECTED TO ACCOMPLISH WITH A CONFERENCE
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PAGE 03 VIENNA 03438 221748Z

TOP-HEAVY WITH PARTICIPANTION OF OPEC AND DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES.

5. SEYFFERTITZ WAS PESSIMISTIC THAT A CONFERENCE COULD
BE HELD WHICH WOULD BE LIMITED TO ENERGY AND ENERGY-
RELATED ISSUES. SINCE FRENCH HAD INVITED DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES TO THE FIRST PREPCON, HE DID NOT SEE HOW THEY
COULD BE DIS-INVITED TO FUTURE CONFERENCES. HE ALSO

THOUGHT SOME WAY WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND FOR ALGERIANS TO SAVE FACE. WHILE HE REITERATED THAT GOA ALSO WANTS ENERGY TO BE THE CENTRAL TOPIC IN ANY PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE, HE THOUGH THAT "SATELLITE DISCUSSIONS," AS HE TERMED THEN, WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE TO TAKE PLACE ON RAW MATERIALS, FOODSTUFFS AND INDEXATION. HE DID NOT SEE HOW THIS COULD BE AVOIDED, UNWELCOME THOUGH IT MIGHT BE. HE WAS FIRM IN STATING THAT IEA WOULD HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY FULL CONFERENCE, WHATEVER ITS OFFICIAL STATUS AT SUCH A CONFERENCE MIGHT BE.

6. PRESS COVERAGE ON CONFERENCE HAS BEEN LIGHT. VIENNA'S INDEPENDENT DAILY, "DIE PRESSE", CALLED RESULTS OF CONFERENCE A BLOW TO FRENCH DIPLOMACY. PAPER STATES THAT "FRANCE'S SOLO ACTION HAS ALREADY MADE A GAP IN THE FRONT OF INDUSTRIAL STATES." EDITORIAL ALSO SEES DANGER THAT COLLAPSE OF CONFERENCE WILL GIVE IMPETUS TO UNILATERAL DEALS BY CONSUMER STATES WITH OIL PRODUCERS. SEMI-OFFICIAL "WIENER ZEITUNG" REFERRED TO THE "INGLORIOUS FAILURE" OF THE CONFERENCE AND SAW IN THE OUTCOME A VICTORY FOR THE US. PAPER CLAIMS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER, UNLIKE GISCARD, HAD THE PRIORITIES OF ENERGY PROBLEM IN RIGHT ORDER AND THAT US INSISTENCE ON SOLIDARITY AMONG CONSUMERS PREVAILED.

7. COMMENT: WE HAD IMPRESSION FROM SEYFFERTITZ'S REMARKS THAT AUSTRIA MAY URGE SOME ACCOMMODATING FORMULA UNDER WHICH ENERGY WOULD BE THE CENTRAL PIECE OF A PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE BUT THAT DISCUSSION OF RAW MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS WOULD ALSO BE INCLUDED IN SOME LIMITED WAY. WE ALSO HAVE IMPRESSION THAT SOME SKEPTICISM ABOUT CONTINUED WORK OF IEA MAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 VIENNA 03438 221748Z

EMERGE IN SOME QUARTERS. GOA IS OBVIOUSLY REVIEWING SITUATION AND HOPES FOR AN EARLY INDICATION FROM WASHINGTON ON US VIEWS. BUCHANAN

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